की जा रही है तथा सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Air service to Hubli Airport

2163. SHRI J. P. JAVALI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that air services to Hubli airport were suspended in view of the fact that a 110 KV H.T. line nearer the airstrip was considered a safety hazard; and

(b) whether the H.T. line has since been removed, and if so by when air services to Hubli is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The HT line has been removed However, due to commercial and operational reasons Vayudoot, at present, is unable to recommence its services to Hubli.

New Planes for Air India and Indian Air lines

2164. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJARAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made a plan for purchase of new planes for Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) whether Air India has negotiated any credit with some foreign banks; and

(c) if so, what are the details regarding number and investment proposed to be made in the Eight Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Air India and Indian Airlines have placed orders for purchase of four B-747-400 and twelve A-320 aircraft respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the 8th Five Year Plan, Air India has made provision for acquisition of four Boeing-747-400 passenger aircraft estimated to cost Rs. 2333.33 crores with a foreign exchange of US $ 682.72 million.

Foreign Tourist from SAARC Countries

2165. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of foreign tourist arrivals from SAARC countries during the last six months;

(b) whether there has been any increase or decrease in the foreign tourist arrival during the said period as compared to the corresponding periods during the last three years, if so, the details thereof;

(c) what facilities are being provided to the foreign tourists by Government in the country starting from their arrival till their departure, with details thereof; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to attract more foreign tourists in the country ?

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) The foreign tourist arrivals from SAARC countries during the period January to June 1992 were 2,74,075. It was the highest ever arrivals from SAARC countries during the same period in the last three years.

(c) The tourist facilities are generally provided by the private sector and not by the Government. However, in the case of SAARC countries, a 30% group travel concession is being provided by Indian Airlines to a maximum of 500 foreign tourists per year for air travel within the region.

(d) The steps taken by the Government for attracting more foreign tourists to the country include improvement of infrastructural facilities, particularly in the accommodation and transport sectors in coordination with the private sector and effective publicity and marketing campaigns in the overseas markets.